खाद्यान्नों का आयात

1254. **प्रो. रामबख्त सिंह वर्मा**: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 1997-98 के दौरन किन-किन खाद्यान्नों का आयात किया गया था;

(ख) उनका देश-वार तथा खाद्यान्न-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) खाद्यान्नों का आयात किए जाने के क्या कारण है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार वर्ष 1999-2000 के दौरन खाद्यान्नों का आयात करने पर विचार कर रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री राक्मकृष्ण हेगड़े) : (क) और (ख) वर्स 1997-98 के दौरान सरकारी खाते से किया गया गेहूं का आयात निम्ननुसार था :–

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वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान चावल का कोई आयात नहीं किया गया है ।

(ग) देश मे गेंहू के कम उत्पादन और देश में उसकी उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने के कारण ।

(घ) केन्द्रिय पूल मेम खाद्यान्नोम (गेंहू और चावल) की स्टांक संबंधी स्थिति संतोषजनक है और वर्ष 1999-2000 जे दौरान खाद्यान्नों (गेंहू और चावल) का आयात करने के बारे में इस समय कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

Re-Constitution of Board of Trade

1255. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have re-constituted the high-level Board of Trade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the members of the re-constituted Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. The Board of Trade has been reconstituted w.e.f. 5th February, 1999.

(b) The Board of Trade has been reconstituted with a view to giving winder representation to a cross section of Trade and Industry, economists and media so that the Board could provide an effective mechanism for ensuring continuous dialogue for evolving strategies for boosting our export-import trade.

(c) The names of members of the reconstituted Board of Trade are given in annexure. *[See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 21]*

Misuse of Advance Licence Scheme

1256. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Advance Licence Scheme has been misused and the exporters are not complying with the export obligations; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, alongwith the action taken against exporters and the steps taken to realise the amount on default?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of cases where a number of exporters have been found to have misused the advance licensing scheme and have not fulfilled their export obligation within the period allowed to them.

(b) Licence-wise details of export obligation fulfilled is maintained by the concerned liscensing offices. In cases of default in the fulfilment of export obligation, the licencee is required to pay the Customs duty alongwith interest @ 24% per annum on the unutilised duty free imported material besides surrendering of the Special Import Licences of appropriate value. In cases where such default is not regularised in the manner above, appropriate penal action is taken under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 or the Import &

Exports (Control) Act, 1947 (for cases prior to 1992) and Rules and Orders made thereunder. The Customs Authorities also initiate Adjudication proceedings in all such cases under the Customs Act, 1962.

Steps taken to realise the amount of default include (i) enforcement of Bank Guarantees; (ii) suspension/cancellation of licences; (iii) suspension/cancellation of Import-Export Code Number; (iv) refusal to grant further licences; (v) recovery of penalty amount as arrear of land revenue.

New Pass Book Scheme

1257. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister ©f COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce any new special pass book scheme in the export-import policy; and

(b) the benefits to exporters on introduction of such scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Government of India have already notified various schemes to neutralise the disadvantage suffered by Indian exporter. Various suggestions have been received for Exim Policy review as well as review of different schemes. The suggestions are being examined and shall be given due consideration in the revised edition of the Exim Policy to be declared shortly.

Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty

1258. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's renewed Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty would bring any effect on Indian Economy; and

(b) which sector of industries are going to get benefited from the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade was renewed in December, 1996 and the Treaty of Transit was renewed in January, 1999.

The Provisions of the renewed Treaty of Trade having its impact/effect on Indian Economy are:—

(I) Nepal allows imports of manufactured products from India at concessional rates of customs duty.

(II) Exports of primary products from India to Nepal are given preferential treatment and are exempted from basic customs duty and quantitative restrictions.

(III) Payments for all transactions between India and Nepal are allowed in the local currencies. However, few items are being exported to Nepal against free foreign exchange.

(IV) The Nepalese manufactured products, except for a Negative List, are allowed access to the Indian market free of customs duty and without quantitative restrictions. However, additional customs duty equal to excise duty payable on similar products in India remain leviable on imports from Nepal. In case this leads to surge in the import of a particular item from Nepal, the two Governments enter into consultations to take appropriate measures.

The Treaty of Transit is aimed at providing access to the Nepalese traffic-in-transit through the Indian territory to promote its international trade. This Treaty, therefore, does not bring any tangible effect on the Indian economy.